

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 107821
ORIGIN AF-10

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APPROVED BY AF/S:DPETTERSON
AF/S:LMACFARLANE
F/EPS : FTHOMAS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MASERU IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MBABANE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 107821

STADIS/////////
FOR AMB NORLAND

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, EAID, LT

SUBJECT: LESOTHO PERIMETER ROAD PROJECT

REF: (A) STATE I03279; (B) MASERU 834

1. DUE TO PROBLEM OF INTERNAL COORDINATION, REF A
WAS DESPATCHED BEFORE CLEARANCE BY STATE. DEPARTMENT
CONCURS WITH AFR'S DECISION NOT TO SEEK ADDITIO L FUNDS
FOR PERIMETER ROAD PROJECT BEYOND \$25 MILLION.

WE ALSO AGREE THAT THIS OBLIGES US TO CHOOSE
AMONG SCALED-BACK OPTIONS AS OUTLINED IN REF (A).
HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE REFTEL DID NOT SUFFICIENTLY STRESS
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POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED IN THIS CHOICE.

2. WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY JUSTIFIED LESOTHO ROAD PROJECT
-- ONE OF LARGEST SINGLE PROJECTS IN ADMINISTRATION'S
AID PROPOSALS -- ON SECURITY SUPPORTING GROUNDS RELATED
TO THE INTERRUPTION OF ECONOMICALLY IMPORTANT TRANSPORTA-
TION ROUTES. ROAD WAS DESIGNED (AT INITIAL GOL ESTIMATE

OF DOLS 11.2 MILLION) TO RECONNECT AREAS IN SOUTHERN
LESOTHO EFFECTIVELY CUT OFF FROM REST OF COUNTRY BY GOL

UNWILLINGNESS TO RECOGNIZE AND TRANSIT THE TRANSKEI
(THEIR TRADITIONAL TRANSPORTATION ROUTE). REGARDLESS
OF DESIRABLE DEVELOPMENTAL SPINOFF BENEFITS OF ANY
ROAD BUILT INTO MOUNTAINOUS SOUTHERN LESOTHO, WE
COULD FACE SERIOUS JUSTIFICATION PROBLEMS IF WHEN
THIS PROJECT IS COMPLETED WE HAVE FAILED TO RECONNECT
THESE ISOLATED SOUTHERN SECTORS TO THE WEST. WE
BELIEVE THIS SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND IN BALANCING
OPTIONS OF IMPROVING ROAD AS FAR AS HALFWAY POINT AT
MT. MOORISI AND COMPLETING SECTION FROM TRANSKEI
BORDER BACK TO THIS POINT. YOU SHOULD ENSURE THAT
OSARAC'S AND MASERU'S DISCUSSIONS REGARDING CUTBACK
OPTIONS TAKE THESE CONSIDERATIONS (ON WHICH WE WOULD
WELCOME YOUR VIEWS BY NON-STADIS CABLE WITHOUT THIS
REFERENCE) INTO ACCOUNT. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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